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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WASHINGTON D.C. MAN SENTENCED FOR
POSSESSION OF COUNTERFEIT EQUIPMENT**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Calvin McCants, age 54, of Washington D.C. was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett to 27 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release following his guilty plea on January 12, 2004 to one count of possession of device-making equipment. Judge Bennett also ordered McCants to pay \$26,516 in restitution to credit card companies and banks that he defrauded.

According to the plea agreement, in August 2003 law enforcement received information that a "counterfeit plant" was operating out of and extended stay motel located in Columbia, Maryland. A counterfeit plant is a term used to describe a clandestine location where counterfeit driver's licenses, credit cards, birth certificates and other fraudulent financial documents are produced. On August 25, 2003 law enforcement officers observed McCants arriving in the parking lot of the motel and transporting what was later discovered to be a printer into the building. Law enforcement learned that between May and August 2003, McCants purchased numerous used printers, printing materials and ultra card magnetic stripe cards (blank credit card stock). After a search warrant was

executed on the motel room occupied by McCants, law enforcement found a “counterfeit plant,” including five laptop computers, printers, a credit card/identification card printer, a card cutter, scanner, an embossing machine, as well as counterfeit Discover, Visa, Mastercard, and American Express cards, and credit reports of several individuals.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service, the Maryland State Police, the Metro Area Fraud Task Force, and the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gina L. Simms.